

8:00 AM in Room 137

Remarks: NO on HB 328

It is my opinion that opposition to protection of my right to death with dignity is UNCONSCIONABLE ~~and morally reprehensible~~ and morally reprehensible. There are legislators among you who believe that physicians should be criminally prosecuted for complying with the wishes of dying patients wanting to ease their suffering by ending their lives. 69% of Montanans disagree.

Death with dignity, as ruled by Montana's Supreme Court five years ago in the *Baxter* case, is authorized and legal. Many physicians across Montana have prescribed medication for aid in dying, within boundaries set by the Court: patient must be a terminally ill adult, must be mentally competent, must self-administer the medication.

Many Montanans have utilized death with dignity. Others have gained peace of mind knowing the option is available, legal and

understood by their physicians.

Lawmakers waste time and taxpayer money on scare tactics and fabrications every two years, instead of accepting the people's will and following Montana's proud history of freedom from government interference in citizen's private lives. Democrats and Republicans voting together in previous sessions have turned away attempts to take away our right to die peacefully.

Oregon's common sense legislation provides guidelines, including requiring a second doctor's opinion. In seventeen years, their record has shown the sound policy and good medical practice of death with dignity. Opponents' fears have never been realized.

HB 328 criminalizes doctors, and subverts the law as decided by the Montana Supreme Court in 2009 - that Montanans who are terminally ill have the right to seek aid in dying.

Please vote against HB328